

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /148 W

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FM AMEBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1153

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1516

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, EAGR, ETRD, GB, UK

SUBJ: GABONESE EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE UK INVESTMENT IN GABON

1. SUMMARY: LIBREVILLE'S L'UNION OF JUNE 2 CARRIED BRIEF ARTICLE ABOUT MAY 24 SEMINAR IN BIRMINGHAM. OF MEMBERS OF CLUB DE DAKAR AND REPRESENTATIVES OF UK INDUSTRY, DESIGNED TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE BRITISH INVESTMENT IN CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES. GABON WAS REPRESENTED BY MINISTER OF PLAN AND TOURISM MICHEL ANCHOUHEY. FOUR PROJECTS WERE PRESENTED BY GABONESE DELEGATION AS BEING THOSE FOR WHICH BRITISH INVESTMENT IS SOUGHT. END SUMMARY

2. IN MAY 24 MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM, GABON'S MINISTER OF MINES EDOUARD ALEXIS MBOUY-BOUTZIT AND MINISTER OF PLAN MICHEL ANCHOUHEY DISCUSSED FOUR GABONESE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR WHICH BRITISH INVESTMENT WAS BEING SOUGHT. BIRMINGHAM MEETING WAS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE BRITISH INVESTMENT IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH BELONG TO CLUB DE DAKAR. TWO PROJECTS ARE IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR; OTHERS ARE IN TOURISM AND FORESTRY.

3. BOTH AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS ARE COORDINATED BY AGROGABON.

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FIRST IS PALM OIL PLANTATION NEAR LAMBARENE WITH 15,000 HECTARES PLANNED; OF THAT 500 HECTARES HAVE BEEN PLANTED. MAIN PROBLEM IS SECURING NECESSARY INVESTMENT ESTIMATED AT 13 BILLION CFA ( APPROXIMATELY US DOLS 60 MILLION). GOVERNMENT OF GABON (GOG) WILL PROVIDE FIRST TRANCHE OF 466 MILLION CFA (APPROX. US DOLS 2 MILLION) THROUGH BANK CREDITS AND BUDGET ALLOTMENT. SECOND PROJECT WILL

BE CREATION OF TWO CATTLE RANCHES, ONE NEAR FRANCEVILLE, OTHER IN NYANGA PROVINCE. INVESTMENT REQUIRED IS 10.5 BILLION CFA (APPROX. US DOLS 50 MILLION); GOAL IS TO MAKE GABON VIRTUALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN BEEF PRODUCTION AND ESTABLISH HERDS OF 30 TO 40,000 HEAD.

4. GOG ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BRITISH INVESTMENT FOR SOGACEL, PULP AND PAPER COMPLEX AT KANGO. INVESTMENT NEEDED AMOUNTS TO 106 BILLION CFA (APPROX. US DOLS 490 MILLION); BRITISH WERE APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE ON FORESTRY RESEARCH ASPECT OF OPERATION.

5. FINAL PROJECT PROPOSED BY GABONESE WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF TOURIST CIRCUIT LIBREVILLE/LAMBARENE/PORT GENTIL DESIGNED FOR TOUR OPERATORS AND WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE RIVER AND LAKE NETWORK IN LAMBARENE REGION. PROGRAM WOULD UTILIZE LIBREVILLE'S HOTEL FACILITIES IN LAMBARENE, PORT GENTIL, AND LOPE WILDLIFE/HUNTING RESERVE AND PURCHASE OF PERHAPS THREE RIVER BOATS. INVESTMENT PROPOSED, OF WHICH PART WOULD BE PROVIDED BY GOG AND REMAINDER FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, MAY TOTAL 2.3 BILLION CFA (APPROX. US DOLS 10 MILLION).

6. ACCORDING TO PRESS ARTICLE A MISSION FROM BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS EXPECTED IN LIBREVILLE IN NEAR FUTURE TO LOOK FURTER INTO INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES.

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7. COMMENT: TO EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE THIS IS FIRST MAJOR EFFORT ON PART OF GOG TO ATTRACT BRITISH INTERESTS HERE. THIS IS PROBABLY ONLY PART OF CONTINUING PLAN BY GOG TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO GABON FROM WHATEVER SOURCE. END COMMENT  
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## Message Attributes

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